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County Borough of Blackpool.



Annual Report

For the Year 1924,

by

E. W. REES JONES,

M.B., D.C.R.

Medical Officer of Health and
Medical Superintendent to the
Infectious Diseases Hospital.



Printed by the County Borough of Blackpool, 1924.

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MATHER BROS., EXCHANGE PRINTING WORKS, LUNE ST., PRESTON

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

BLACKPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1924.

The Health of the town has been generally satisfactory, and with the exception of Measles, there has not been an undue prevalence of Infectious Diseases. The continued and increasing neglect of vaccination fills me with apprehension, as it is the one and only safeguard against Small Pox. This disease has been prevalent in many parts of England during the year, but we have fortunately been free.

Our Birth-Rate is low—in fact, it is even lower than our Death-Rate, and we, as a local community must rely upon immigration into our town in order to maintain our existence and to further our prosperity. The corollary naturally follows that we must attract visitors and permanent residents, and in this respect activities in our Public Health Service are of paramount importance.

The Death-Rate for the year was 15.7 per 1,000, and I would specially refer you to the portion of the report dealing with this subject.

The Infantile Mortality was at the rate of 71.1 per 1,000 births. This figure compares well with recent years, but it is not yet satisfactory, and we must persevere with our efforts until we reach a figure of 50.

The general work of the Department has proceeded on the same lines as in former years, and the report will indicate the large and varied nature of the visits paid by the Inspectorial staff.

We have not yet been able to solve the difficult problem of additional residential accommodation for cases of Tuberculosis, but this matter is receiving careful attention.

I commend for your approval the loyal and efficient work carried out by all the members of the staff of the Health Department.

I beg to remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your faithful servant,

E. W. REES JONES.

May, 1925.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1924.

Mr. Councillor T. P. FLETCHER, J.P. (Mayor), from Nov., 1924.

Mr. Councillor H. BROOKS, J.P. (Mayor), to Nov., 1924.

„ Alderman HAMPSON, J.P., Chairman.

„ „ HILL, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

„ „ BROWN, J.P.

„ „ J. R. GATH, J.P.

„ „ MATHER, J.P.

„ Councillor ASHTON.

„ „ BAGOT.

„ „ BAILEY (from Nov., 1924).

„ „ BOOTHROYD.

„ „ DUCKWORTH (to November, 1924).

„ „ G. W. GATH.

„ „ HALSTEAD.

„ „ MILLINGTON.

„ „ NEWSOME (to November, 1924).

„ „ QUAYLE.

„ „ RICE.

„ „ STEVENSON (from November, 1924).

„ „ TOMLINSON.

„ „ WHITTAKER, J.P.

HEALTH GENERAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Councillor T. P. FLETCHER, J.P. (Mayor), from November, 1924

„ „ H. BROOKS, J.P. (Mayor), to November, 1924.

„ Alderman HAMPSON, J.P., Chairman.

„ „ HILL, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

„ „ BROWN, J.P.

„ „ J. R. GATH, J.P.

„ Councillor ASHTON.

„ „ DUCKWORTH (to November, 1924).

„ „ G. W. GATH.

„ „ HALSTEAD.

„ „ MILLINGTON (from November, 1924).

„ „ QUAYLE.

„ „ WHITTAKER, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Councillor T. P. FLETCHER, J.P. (Mayor), from November, 1924.

„ „ H. BROOKS, J.P. (Mayor), to November, 1924.

„ Alderman HAMPSON, J.P., Chairman

„ „ HILL, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

„ „ BROWN, J.P.

Mr. Councillor BAILEY (from November, 1924).

„ „ BAGOT.

„ „ BOOTHROYD (to November, 1924).

„ „ G. W. GATH

„ „ RICE.

„ „ TOMLINSON.

„ „ WHITTAKER (from November, 1924).

Mrs. A. OLIVER.

„ WINTERBOTTOM.

„ WOODHEAD.

TUBERCULOSIS SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr. Councillor T. P. FLETCHER, J.P. (Mayor), from November, 1924.

„ „ H. BROOKS, J.P. (Mayor), to November, 1924).

Mr. Alderman HAMPSON, J.P., Chairman.

„ „ HILL, J.P. Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Councillor ASHTON (to November, 1924).

„ „ BAILEY (from November, 1924).

„ „ BOOTHROYD.

„ „ HALSTEAD.

„ „ TOMLINSON.

„ „ RICE.

„ „ WHITTAKER (from November, 1924).

Dr. H. T. BARTON.

Mr. J. H. HURSTFIELD.

General Statistics.



Area (exclusive of foreshore) ...	...	...	...	...	5,273 acres
Area of foreshore ...	...	...	...	...	1,121 ,,
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	...	...	...	20,844
Do. empty houses ...	...	...	...	...	784
Population (Census, 1921) ...	...	...	...	...	99,640
Do. (corrected by Registrar General for 1921) ...	...	...	...	...	73,800
Do. (do. do. 1922) ...	...	...	...	...	74,050
Do. (do. do. 1923) ...	...	...	...	...	75,130
Do. (do. do. 1924) ...	...	...	...	...	77,410
Rateable value : Borough Rate ...	...	...	...	...	£981,095
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	£3,750

It will be noted from the above figures that, according to the estimate of the Registrar General, there is an increase of only 2,280 in our population in twelve months, in spite of the fact that the actual number of inhabited houses shows an increase of 1,556. It is therefore obvious that the estimates of the Registrar General are very considerably below the actual.

Based on the assumption of a 77,410 population, the density of population of the whole town, and of each ward, is as follows :—

Blackpool ...	14.68 persons per acre.
Bispham ... 2.34	Foxhall ... 49.79
Warbreck ... 10.58	Tyldesley ... 22.94
Claremont... ... 45.90	Alexandra ... 31.16
Talbot ... 37.14	Victoria... ... 11.85
Bank Hey... ... 44.55	Waterloo ... 7.42
Brunswick ... 35.10	Layton ... 12.02
	Marton ... 15.77

The following Table gives the actual area and population for the town generally, and each of the wards :—

	Area in Acres.	Population.		Area in Acres.	Population.
Blackpool ...	5,273	77,410	Foxhall ...	180	8,963
Bispham ...	1,660	3,891	Tyldesley ...	248	5,692
Warbreck ...	370	3,914	Alexandra ...	196	6,109
Claremont ...	157	7,209	Victoria ...	377	4,479
Talbot ...	191	7,095	Waterloo ...	547	4,059
Bank Hey ...	126	5,614	Layton ...	632	7,595
Brunswick ...	181	6,354	Marton ...	408	6,436

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

				Total.		M.	F.
Births : Legitimate	...	...	...	1,082	...	569	513
Illegitimate	...	...	...	113	...	49	64
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.43	per 1,000
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...		1217
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.72	per 1,000

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth :

(a) From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) „ other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Infant Mortality per 1,000 :

Total	...	...	...	...	...	71.1
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	67.5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	106.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Do. Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

(a) **Births.**—During the year 1,195 births were registered, including 11 in the Kirkham Workhouse. These, divided into sexes for the four quarters of the year are as follows :—

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Total.
Males.....	162	139	152	165	618
Females ...	145	137	157	138	577
Total	307	276	309	303	1195

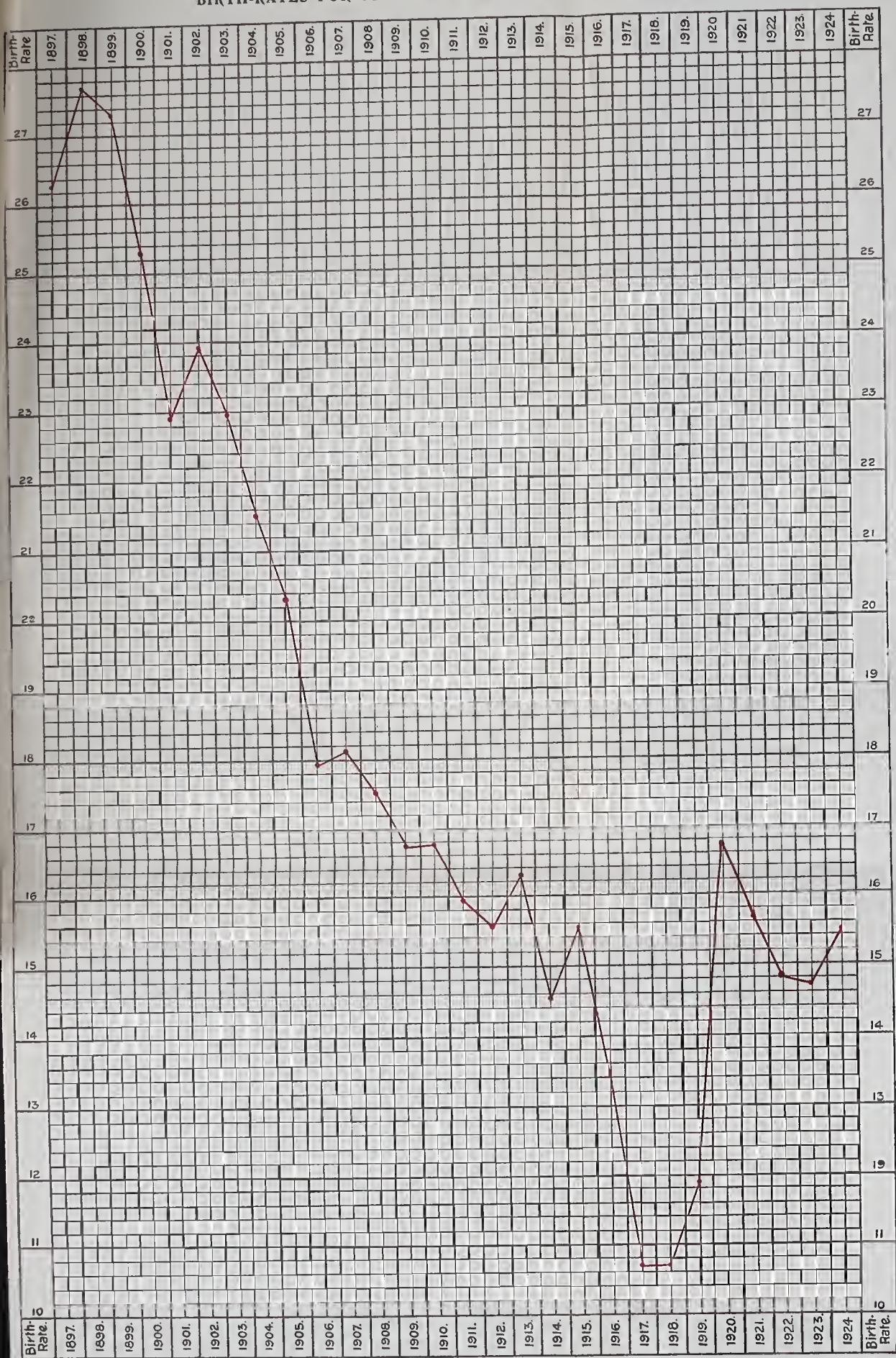
The birth rate for the year on the gross population was 15.43 per 1,000. It will be observed from the chart facing this page, and also from the table on page 8, that the birth rate from the year 1878 has shewn a steady and continuous decline, until the year 1918, when it reached the very low figure of 10.63 per 1,000 of the population. There was an upward tendency in the rate for the years 1918, 1919, and 1920, but this has not been maintained for the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, though there is a slight increase as compared with 1923.

The low position which Blackpool occupies in this comparative table is not due to any diminished fertility, nor is the artificial limitation of families more pronounced than in other districts. There is, however, in Blackpool a lower percentage of married women of child bearing age in comparison with industrial towns, and this accounts largely for our comparatively low birth-rate. The shortage of houses suitable for young married couples is also bound to have a very definite effect on our birth-rate.

The earliest recorded birth rate which I have of Blackpool is for the year 1878, when with a population of 13,000, there was a rate of 38.8 per 1,000. I have prepared a table based on the same lines as a table in the Annual Report of the Registrar General for the year 1907. The rate for 1878 is taken as a standard and is called 100, and the subsequent years are given as comparative per centages :—

Year.	Birth Rate Blackpool.	Birth rate Blackpool compared with rate for 1878, taken as 100.	Birth rate England and Wales.	Birth rate England & Wales compared with rate for 1878, taken as 100.
1878	38.8	100	35.6	100
1879	36.6	94.3	34.7	97.5
1880	34.0	87.6	34.2	96.1
1881	30.6	78.9	33.9	95.2
1882	30.0	77.3	33.8	94.9
1883	30.0	77.3	33.5	94.1
1884	29.8	76.8	33.6	94.3
1885	27.4	70.6	32.9	92.4
1886	25.9	66.8	32.8	92.1
1887	25.3	65.2	31.9	89.6
1888	24.5	63.1	31.2	87.6
1889	26.5	68.3	31.1	87.4
1890	23.7	61.1	30.2	84.8
1891	22.3	57.5	31.4	88.2
1892	24.0	61.9	30.4	85.4
1893	22.4	57.7	30.7	86.2
1894	23.9	61.6	29.6	83.1
1895	26.7	68.8	30.3	85.1
1896	25.7	66.2	29.6	83.1
1897	26.25	67.7	29.6	83.1
1898	27.74	71.5	29.3	82.3
1899	27.34	70.5	29.1	81.7
1900	25.27	65.1	28.7	80.6
1901	22.90	59.0	28.5	80.1
1902	23.96	61.8	28.5	80.1
1903	22.97	59.2	28.4	79.8
1904	21.53	55.5	27.9	78.4
1905	20.30	52.3	27.2	76.6
1906	17.91	46.2	27.1	76.1
1907	18.09	46.6	26.3	73.9
1908	17.54	45.2	26.2	73.6
1909	16.70	43.0	25.6	71.9
1910	16.74	43.1	24.8	69.7
1911	15.97	41.2	24.4	68.5
1912	15.50	39.9	23.8	66.9
1913	16.25	41.9	23.9	67.1
1914	14.47	37.3	23.8	66.9
1915	15.54	40.0	21.8	61.2
1916	13.40	34.5	21.6	60.7
1917	10.64	27.4	17.8	50.0
1918	10.63	27.4	17.7	49.7
1919	11.84	30.5	18.5	52.0
1920	16.71	43.1	25.4	71.3
1921	15.61	40.2	22.4	62.9
1922	14.80	38.1	20.6	57.8
1923	14.76	38.0	19.7	55.3
1924	15.43	39.7	18.8	50.3

BIRTH-RATES FOR THE YEARS 1897-1924.



There were 113 illegitimate children born during the year, including 10 at Kirkham Workhouse. This figure gives the following rates :—

- (1) 1.46 per 1,000 of the inhabitants.
- (2) 6.10 per 1,000 females of conceptive age.*
- (3) 9.45 per cent. of the total births.

** Calculated on there being 18,515 females at child-bearing age—20 to 45.*

These figures for the past few years have been as follows :—

1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	
1.46	1.18	1.17	1.44	1.39	1.78	1.18	1.23	1.18	
6.10	4.96	4.92	6.02	5.82	7.47	4.98	5.14	4.95	
9.45	8.02	7.93	9.20	8.31	14.98	11.18	11.52	8.81	
1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906
1.18	1.03	1.31	1.45	1.29	1.13	1.35	1.14	1.08	1.14
4.96	4.17	5.48	6.07	5.27	4.61	5.50	4.64	4.39	4.64
7.62	6.87	8.05	9.35	8.10	6.76	8.09	6.49	5.96	6.35

The second figure, i.e., the proportion of illegitimate births to women at conceptive ages, is the one which represents best the progress of illegitimacy in the country. It is not necessary to amplify the figures, as it will be obvious that they are not favourable.

(b) **Deaths.** The number of deaths of Blackpool residents which occurred during the year was 1217. This figure includes the deaths of 51 persons in the Kirkham Workhouse, and of 63 persons in areas outside Blackpool.

The deaths, divided into sexes for the four quarters of the year, were as follows :—

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Total.
Males.....	165	124	132	164	585
Females ...	220	148	139	125	632
Total ...	385	272	271	289	1217

The death rate for the year was 15.72 per 1,000 of the population, and the progress of the rate year by year will be seen on reference to the chart facing this page. The comparison of this rate with other portions of the country is as follows:—

England and Wales	...	...	...	12.2 per 1,000
105 Great Towns	...	...	...	12.3 „
157 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	11.2 „
London	...	...	...	12.1 „
Blackpool	...	...	...	15.7 „

The rate of 15.72 is, however, based on a supposed population of 77,410. At the census of 1921 the average number of persons per house was 4.5. There is no reason to believe that this average is any less than it was, in fact, the impression made on me on my various visits to houses is that it is more. Assuming, however, that it has remained the same, then, as the number of inhabited houses is 20,844, the population is at least 93,798, and a death-rate calculated on this figure would be 12.9 nearly the same as that of the country generally.

The percentages of the deaths in the various age groups, with similar figures for a series of previous years are as follows:—

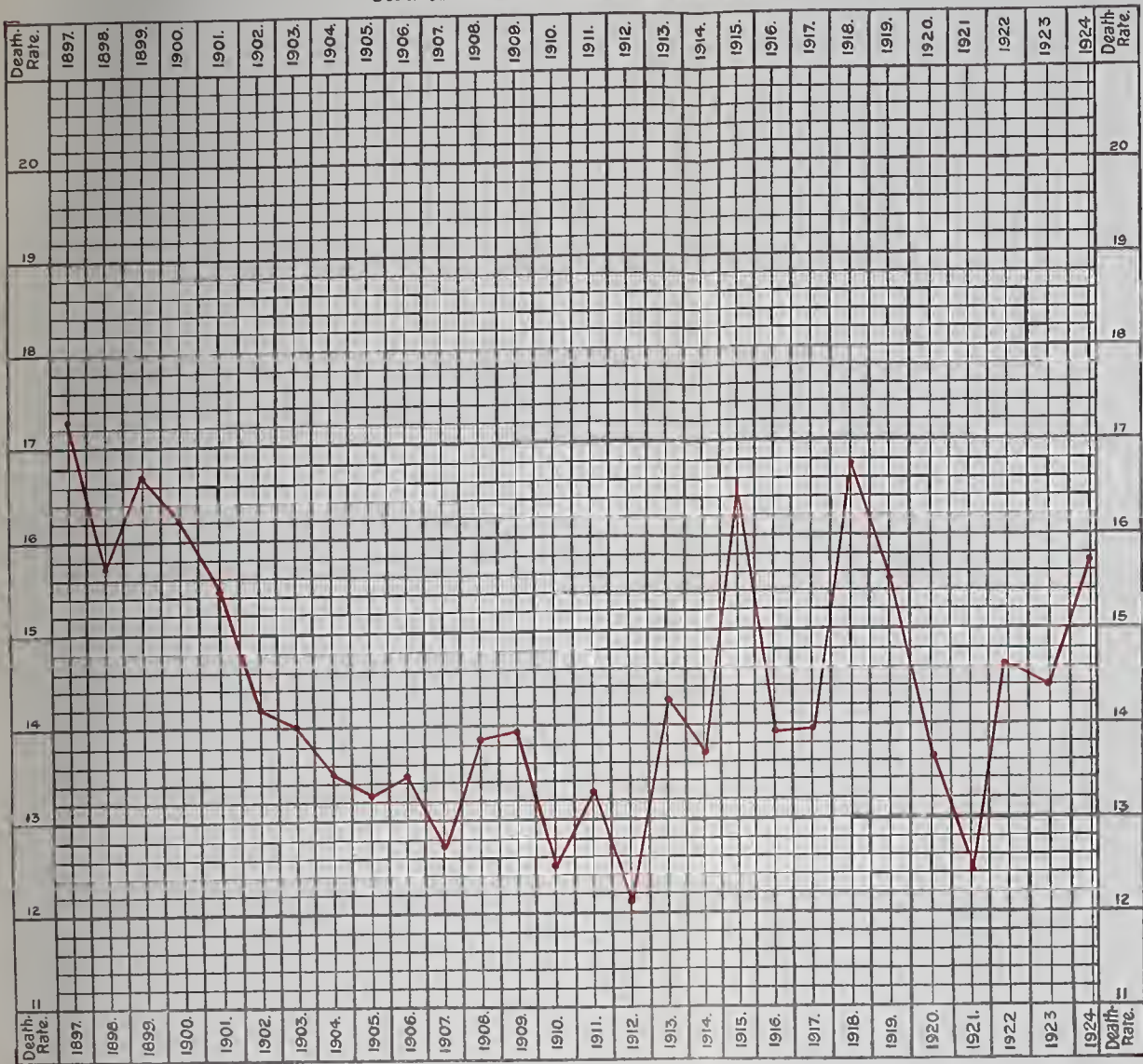
Age Period.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.
Under 12 months ...	7.0	7.1	6.9	8.4	8.5	7.72	7.89	6.9	9.1	12.1
1, and under 5 years ...	3.9	1.7	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.86	5.29	3.0	4.8	5.1
5, and under 65 years ...	47.0	48.1	48.6	45.1	48.9	52.43	55.37	50.3	47.2	46.9
65 years and over ...	42.1	43.1	41.9	43.5	39.9	37.00	31.45	39.7	38.9	35.8

From this table it will be noted that the percentage of deaths of infants under one year has remained steady for the past three years, and is a very marked improvement on some of the earlier years shewn in the table. The percentage of deaths of children between the ages of 1 and 5 is higher than it has been since the year 1918.

Forty-eight children died in Blackpool during 1923 between the ages of 1 and 5. The causes of their deaths were as follows:—Measles, 3; Whooping Cough, 2; Diphtheria, 2; Influenza, 1; Tuberculosis, 8; Inflammation of Brain and Convulsions, 5; Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 13; Accidental Deaths, 7; Other Causes, 7.

DEATH RATES 1897-1924.

CORRECTED FOR AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.



It is indicated therefore, from these figures that more attention will have to be paid to children in their pre-school days. A definite commencement in that direction has already been made in the appointment of an additional Health Visitor, a considerable portion of whose work will consist of the home visiting of these children.

I have extracted from our death returns of the past 11 years the actual number of deaths from various individual diseases which contribute largely to our death rate, and these are as follows :—

	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.
Influenza ...	38	8	47	9	10	80	129	6	16	15	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	52	46	65	56	61	47	87	63	67	70	68
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	19	19	17	24	17	22	27	13	20	16	22
Cancer ...	133	133	123	128	112	108	102	103	93	85	94
Diabetes ...	8	20	15	8	14	16	8	9	18	13	15
Anæmia ...	16	11	9	8	14	14	12	9	6	7	9
Apoplexy ...	96	78	79	55	64	57	53	65	70	50	61
Heart Diseases ...	143	137	123	113	111	124	82	83	74	111	85
Bronchitis...	111	97	103	80	80	122	81	94	108	120	63
Pneumonia ...	68	66	63	51	70	61	81	50	49	78	52
Appendicitis ...	7	9	6	3	12	4	4	8	4	8	9
Bright's Disease ...	37	42	33	38	38	38	37	33	23	42	30
Old Age ...	111	89	72	71	63	63	61	70	62	70	52
Accidental Deaths	46	25	20	26	10	20	10	23	13	21	20

From this table it will be noted that there were a large number of cases of Influenza during the year, and the number of deaths from this disease was greater than in any preceding year except 1918, 1919 and 1922.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, though slightly in excess of that for the previous year, shows a distinct improvement as compared with other years shewn on the table.

Cancer continues to make its heavy toll upon the population, and though the 1924 and 1923 figures happen to be the same the number of deaths per annum is gradually but definitely increasing. A considerable amount of research work is being done in regard to this disease, and until the causation is clearly defined, little further can be done in the way of prevention, apart from the work now carried out. Only the three following statements can definitely be made :—

- (1) The causation of the disease remains obscure.
- (2) There is no indication that the disease is infectious or contagious.
- (3) The disease is curable if detected at an early stage.

On the instructions of the Health Committee the following advertisement appears quarterly in our local press, and pamphlets similarly worded are freely issued :—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

C A N C E R .

Little is known of the "Cause of Cancer," but there is no indication that it is hereditary or infectious. There are no special "Cancer Houses," "Cancer Areas," or "Cancer Families."

One of the causes of Cancer is prolonged irritation, as for instance by broken teeth, short pipes, etc., causing Cancer of the tongue or lip. All sources of irritation of this or similar nature should therefore be avoided.

Cancer is usually painless in the early stages, and is sometimes painless throughout its course.

With regard to the treatment of Cancer, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the success depends upon early recognition of the disease.

If diagnosed in its early stage and before the symptom of pain appears, complete cure can frequently be effected.

The following are some of the early signs of Cancer—and any person noting any of them should promptly place himself under medical treatment :—

1. A lump or swelling in a woman's breast after the age of 40 years.
2. Loss of blood other than at normal periods or after the change of life.
3. A wart, sore, or ulcer on the lower lip, tongue or inside of the mouth in a man over 45 years of age.
4. Persistent hoarseness.
5. Bleeding from the bowels after 45 years of age.

E. W. REES JONES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

October, 1923.

BLACKPOOL.

The following table reveals the steady and continuous inroads made by the disease of **Cancer** :—

YEAR.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate.	England and Wales.
1895	16	0.486	0.753
1896	17	0.464	0.762
1897	30	0.746	0.785
1898	22	0.484	0.799
1899	34	0.705	0.826
1900	47	0.937	0.820
1901	54	1.064	0.842
1902	47	0.901	0.844
1903	52	0.981	0.872
1904	41	0.755	0.877
1905	54	0.969	0.885
1906	54	0.946	0.917
1907	52	0.890	0.909
1908	51	0.854	0.923
1909	59	0.960	0.952
1910	46	0.765	0.967
1911	72	1.179	0.993
1912	69	1.111	1.019
1913	92	1.433	1.064
1914	94	1.416	1.069
1915	85	1.323	1.121
1916	93	1.475	1.166
1917	103	1.655	1.210
1918	102	1.580	1.218
1919	108	1.591	1.145
1920	112	1.588	1.161
1921	128	1.734	1.215
1922	123	1.661	1.229
1923	133	1.770	1.267
1924	133	1.718	*

* Figures not yet available.

The number of deaths from Heart Disease, viz., 143 was high, but the Pneumonia and Bronchitis figures were much on a par with previous years. The number of deaths from accidental causes, viz., 46, was particularly high in comparison with previous years.

I have given in this portion of the Report several tables and a large quantity of statistics on the subject of Deaths with the object of providing some material for considering whether any extended and specialised efforts could be made to reduce our death rate. It appears to me that with the exception of Cancer, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, we shall have to rely mainly upon general sanitary supervision, and I think that with still greater activities of the Health organisation, and the diminished stress of social conditions and revival of trade, which we hope soon to see, the toll upon our population will be lessened. With regard to the three special diseases which I have mentioned, Cancer is dealt with at a later stage. Bronchitis and Pneumonia will be less prevalent when our housing conditions are improved, and it appears to me that extended hospital provision is desirable for cases of these diseases.

By the courtesy of the Medical Officers of the various Lancashire towns, I am able to give the following comparisons of some of their statistics with those of Blackpool.

Town.	Estimated Population.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
Blackpool	77,410	15.7	71.1
Barrow-in-Furness ...	74,265	11.5	72.1
Blackburn	129,000	14.0	84.0
Bolton	181,100	14.0	92.0
Burnley	103,400	14.8	126.0
Oldham	148,300	13.8	112.0
Preston	123,100	13.9	97.0
Rochdale	92,750	14.5	78.0
Southport	73,650	13.7	63.0
St. Helens	108,700	12.0	103.0

It will be noted that while our Infant Mortality Rate is quite satisfactory, our death rate is above the average, but as I have explained in a previous part of this Report, our rate is calculated on an estimated population of the Registrar General's which, in my opinion, is too low.

Of the 1,217 resident deaths in 1924 the causes of 1,094 or 89.9 per cent., were certified by medical practitioners. Inquests were held respecting 73, or 5.9 per cent., whilst the remaining 50, or 4.2 per cent., were uncertified.

The Ward statistics with regard to death rates are as follows :—

Wards.	Death Rate 1924.
Bispham	10.0
Warbreck	15.5
Claremont ...	13.7
Talbot.....	20.0
Bank Hey	9.8
Brunswick....	16.5
Foxhall	11.8
Tyldesley.....	16.2
Alexandra	13.6
Victoria	16.7
Waterloo	13.3
Layton.....	13.4
Marton.....	31.7

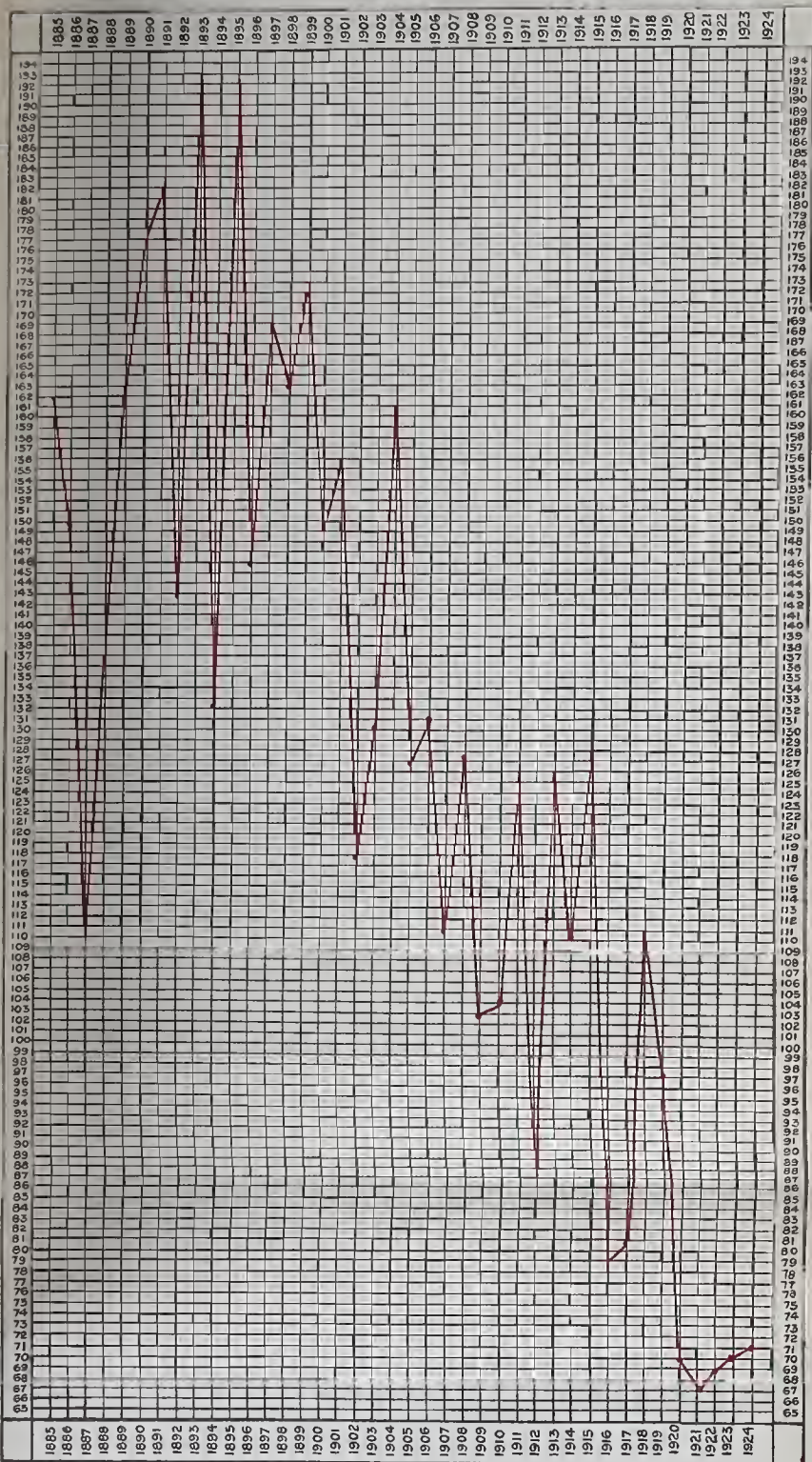
Infantile Deaths.—Eighty-five children under the age of 12 months died during 1924, and the Infantile Mortality was at the rate of 71.1 per 1,000 births.

The following table gives the infant death rate per 1,000 births, for the past 46 years, and the Chart represents in a more diagrammatic manner the fluctuations from year to year. The very satisfactory position which we occupy in comparison with earlier years is obvious. As indicated in previous reports, the figures at which we are aiming is 50 per 1,000 births, and I am confident that as the work carried out under our Maternity and Child Welfare scheme develops, this figure will be reached :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1879—1924.
RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

Year.	Blackpool	England and Wales.
1879	122	135
1880	206	153
1881	126	130
1882	221	141
1883	123	137
1884	140	147
1885	162	138
1886	150	149
1887	110	145
1888	137	136
1889	162	144
1890	177	151
1891	182	149
1892	143	148
1893	193	159
1894	132	137
1895	192	161
1896	146	148
1897	169	156
1898	163	160
1899	173	163
1900	149	154
1901	156	151
1902	118	133
1903	130	132
1904	161	145
1905	127	128
1906	131	133
1907	111	118
1908	128	121
1909	103	109
1910	104	106
1911	126	130
1912	88	95
1913	126	109
1914	110	105
1915	128	110
1916	79	86
1917	81	81
1918	111	97
1919	97	89
1920	70	80
1921	67	83
1922	68	77
1923	70	69
Mean of 45 years	132	127
1924	71	75

CHART SHOWING INFANTILE MORTALITY from 1885 to 1924.



The comparison of our Infant Mortality Rate with that of other parts of the country, and the rate in each of the four quarters of the year, is as follows :—

England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	75
105 Great Towns	...	...	...	...	...	80
157 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	...	...	71
London ...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	71

The rates for the four quarters of the year were as follows :—

1st quarter	...	...	...	...	...	94
2nd „	...	...	...	...	...	58
3rd „	...	...	...	...	...	52
4th „	...	...	...	...	...	79

Sixty-six of the cases, or 77 per cent, of the total, died before reaching the age of three months. It is therefore evident that our attention must continue to be directed to babies under this age and even prior to birth. In cases of repeated still-births the attention of the medical practitioners has been called to the desirability of having the mothers tested for the Wasserman reaction.

The causation of the Infantile Deaths according to groups of diseases, etc., is as follows :—

DEATHS UNDER ONE.—TOTAL.

CAUSES.	YEAR		QUARTERS						FEEDING			Mother employed away from home	No Information	Illegitimate.	
	Under 3 mths	Total	First	Second		Third		Fourth		Not Fed	Breast Fed				Hand Fed partly or entirely
				Under 3 mths	Total	Under 3 mths	Total	Under 3 mths	Total						
1—Common Infectious Diseases (Measles, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)	2	3	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
2—Diarrhoeal Diseases :— Diarrhoea, Enteritis, and Gastritis.	4	5	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
3—Congenital Malformations... ..	6	6	1	1	—	—	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	1
4—Premature Birth, Debility, Icterus, etc.	38	42	14	14	6	7	8	8	10	13	15	9	14	4	7
5—Tubercular Diseases	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
6—Other Causes { Convulsions Bronchitis Pneumonia Other causes	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	—
	2	5	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	3	2	—	1
	6	11	3	6	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	5	5	—	2
	6	8	2	3	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	1	2
Totals	66	85	22	29	12	16	13	16	19	24	18	29	32	6	12

Further reference is made to this subject in the section of the Report dealing with our Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the years 1896-1924 (inclusive).

	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	22	8	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	6	7	10	13	24	134	75	40	46	49	54	84	61	96	41	40	55	41	22	29	42	67	77	74	178	52	28	25	52
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	14	13	13	19	26	17	18	13	18	38	20	26	23	24	22	29	19	12	20	22	38	13	23	22	17
Scarlet Fever	208	177	77	141	187	271	197	257	179	200	183	177	238	348	181	84	83	102	145	316	144	88	60	95	229	220	179	154	108
Typhus Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	66	50	67	59	68	58	70	42	28	51	39	41	65	48	12	39	17	13	32	35	6	7	10	6	1	6	7	6	6
Puerperal Fever	1	2	5	5	3	2	2	3	5	3	2	2	3	4	7	5	6	5	3	8	4	2	5	4	9	4	—	9	11
Measles.....	148	794	259	370	302	532	863	127	1386	871	389	309	1268	834	660	1181	720	1232	690	680	1049	1168	1409	369	1415	43	1125	624	1197
Rotheln.....	2	—	—	1	2	5	5	5	13	27	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	21	23	51
Tuberculosis :																													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	133	131	120	169	143	188	202	151	119	127	121	107	129
(b) Non-pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	37	25	35	53	63	67	44	33	27	22	38
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	3	1	—	1	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	11	18	14	21	28	37	18	37	48	28
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	29
Totals.....	431	1031	418	589	600	1019	1227	515	1691	1221	700	627	1653	1368	921	1419	1040	1594	1088	1303	1467	1610	1670	818	2073	554	1568	1040	1669

[illegible]

Scarlet Fever.—108 cases, one death. The comparative incidence with previous years will be seen on the table on page 19. No particular portion of the town was affected, nor was the disease more prevalent in any particular period of the year. 92 of the cases (85.1 %) were removed to the Sanatorium.

Diphtheria.—52 cases, four deaths. 48 of the cases, or 92.3% were removed to the Sanatorium. No special part of the town was affected. The administrative measures taken to deal with this disease are as follows :—Free distribution of anti-toxin to actual and suspected cases, bacteriological examinations and daily supervision of all contacts, school exclusion, and isolation of patients at the Sanatorium.

Small Pox.—No cases of this disease were reported during the year. In spite of our fortunate freedom, I cannot refrain from calling attention to the great dangers which are incurred by neglect of vaccination, and the country generally runs a risk of a devastating epidemic, because of its neglect. The contention that freedom from Small Pox may be obtained by stringent sanitary administration is erroneous. There is only one safeguard against Small Pox—viz., recent and efficient vaccination.

Enteric Fever.—Six cases, no deaths.

Though this is a very low incidence, there is no sound reason why the disease should exist at all. A person can contract it in one way only, namely by swallowing some infected article of food or drink. Bad smells have not the slightest effect in its causation. The comparison of the incidence with some earlier years is seen on page 19, and up to the year 1915 the comparison is highly favourable. Persistence in sanitary measures, especially supervision of food supplies, will result in eliminating altogether the disease of Enteric Fever.

Measles.—1197 cases, four deaths. 165 cases were removed to the Sanatorium for isolation and treatment. Measles remains a compulsorily notifiable disease in Blackpool. The disease was prevalent during the months of June, July, November and December. The remaining eight months were comparatively free. From the table on page 20 it will be seen that half of the 625 cases were in children of school age. Only fifteen cases occurred in persons over school age. The deaths occurred

in children under 10 years of age (2 under two years, 1 under five, 1 under 5—10 years. It cannot be too often repeated that Measles is especially dangerous to young children. The younger the child, the greater is the danger, and for every year in a child's life that an attack of Measles can be postponed the chances of complete recovery are enhanced.

Puerperal Fever. Eleven cases were notified during the year, and four deaths occurred. These numbers are excessive, and it is necessary that we should consider what administrative action can be taken to reduce the incidence. An additional Health Visitor has been appointed and a pre-natal Clinic is now being held once a week and I hope that, by these means, some of the dangers of parturition can be anticipated and avoided. In seven of the eleven cases medical practitioners were in attendance at the confinement, and three of the deliveries were instrumental. Eight cases were removed to the Sanatorium for treatment.

304 cases of **Chicken Pox** and 187 cases of **Whooping Cough** were reported to me, mainly by the School Attendance Officers. 28 cases of **Ophthalmia Neonatorum** were notified during the year, 9 of which were treated at the Sanatorium. All the cases recovered with unimpaired vision. Thirty-eight deaths occurred from **Influenza**. The months in which they occurred are as follows:—February, 6; March, 22; April, 5; July, 1; October, 1; November, 1; December, 2. The administrative measures for dealing with Influenza are as follows:—(1) Isolation and treatment at the Sanatorium, (2) provision of medical and nursing assistance to necessitous home cases, and (3) the issuing of information upon precautionary methods.

Pneumonia.—Although this disease is now compulsorily notifiable, only 47 cases were notified during the year, yet 68 deaths occurred. It is, therefore, obvious that a large number escaped notification. The administrative duties on the part of the Sanitary Authority are to provide, if necessary, medical and nursing services or hospital treatment; and I think it is probable that the unnotified cases were those in which assistance from the Health Department was not necessary.

Tuberculosis.—All forms of Tuberculosis have been notifiable during the year, and the following notifications have been received:—Pulmonary 129, Non-Pulmonary 38, Total 167. 72 deaths occurred from this disease.

The following Table gives the cases and deaths divided into sexes and age groups:—

Age periods.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis				Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			
	Notifications.		Deaths.		Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 5 years	—	1	—	1	2	4	6	3
5 to 15 years	12	8	—	—	10	7	4	—
15 to 25 years	11	10	1	9	1	5	1	—
25 to 35 years	21	14	5	6	3	3	1	2
35 to 45 years	21	10	11	6	—	3	—	—
Over 45 years	18	3	11	2	—	—	2	—
Totals	83	46	28	24	16	22	14	5

Except in cases where a desire to the contrary has been expressed, all notified cases have been visited by the Tuberculosis Officer, or by the Tuberculosis Nurse. The following visits have been paid :—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
Primary Visits ...	135	38	173
Subsequent Visits	1,116	360	1,476
Total ...	...	...	1,649

Opportunities are taken on these visits to enquire into and advise upon the precautions which should be adopted for reducing the risk of infection of other members of the household, to enquire into social conditions and the ability to obtain sufficient nourishment and medical attendance, to enquire into the health of other members of the household, and to arrange for the medical examination of contacts by the Tuberculosis Officer.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary, at the Public Health Office, has been open throughout the year, and the Tuberculosis Medical Officer and Nurse are in attendance. The Dispensary serves the following functions :— (1) examination of suspected cases for medical practitioners ; (2) examination of contacts ; (3) sorting of cases for recommendations for treatment ; and (4) treatment of patients. The total number of patients who attended the Dispensary was 217, and 2,441 attendances were made by them. The wards of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, approved by the Ministry of Health for the purpose, have been utilised throughout the year for the treatment of Consumption. The patients are under the treatment of the Tuberculosis Officer and Medical Officer of Health. At the commencement of 1924, twelve cases were in hospital, and during the course of the year, 44 fresh cases were admitted. Of the 56 cases thus under treatment, 31 were discharged, 15 died, and ten remained in at the end of the year. Four patients were sent to the Meathop Sanatorium, twelve to Crossley Sanatorium, Frodsham, one to Fairlight Sanatorium, Hastings, three to Shropshire Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry. one to Lenham Sanatorium, Lenham, and three to Liverpool Sanatorium, Delamere Forest.

Three movable wooden shelters are provided, which are erected as required at the homes of patients.

Periodical disinfection is offered and urged in all cases of Tuberculosis, especially when there is any change of room, but this is not taken advantage of to the extent which is desirable.

The Corporation should consider the desirability of providing dental treatment for Tubercular patients.

The general scheme of dealing with Tuberculosis has remained as in former years, and the disappointing feature persists in that we do not get hold of the cases until the disease is advanced and when the prospect of cure is remote. The services of the Tuberculosis Officer might with much advantage be sought to a greater degree by medical practitioners and by the patients themselves.

The number of deaths and death-rate from Phthisis in the past twenty-four years have been as follows :—

Year.	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate for Residents.
1901	37	0.73
1902	45	0.86
1903	35	0.74
1904	47	0.86
1905	51	0.92
1906	39	0.68
1907	50	0.86
1908	47	0.86
1909	45	0.73
1910	38	0.63
1911	51	0.83
1912	49	0.79
1913	49	0.76
1914	71	1.07
1915	70	1.09
1916	67	1.06
1917	64	1.03
1918	87	1.34
1919	47	0.69
1920	61	0.86
1921	56	0.76
1922	65	0.87
1923	46	0.61
1924	71	0.92

Venereal Diseases.—The Clinic has remained in operation throughout the year, and Dr. Bartlett, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, has carried out the duties of Venereal Diseases Officer.

During the year the number of new cases has been somewhat larger than each of the previous three years, and the total attendances have increased correspondingly. The number of patients discharged after a final test again shews an increase. Still more patients are availing themselves of the irrigation rooms provided at the centre, and the number of attendances is carefully checked though there are many patients who object to register their attendances.

“ The hours of attendance are as follows :—

MALES :

Mondays—5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Wednesdays—11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Thursdays—11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Saturdays—11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

FEMALES :

Tuesdays—5 p.m. to 6-30 p.m.

Fridays—11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

“ The following Salvarsan substitutes are kept at the Health Offices for distribution to Medical Practitioners who are qualified to receive them : N.A.B. Galyl (Intramuscular and Intravenous), Neo-Kharsivan, Neo-Salvarsan and Silber-Salvarsan.

A full statistical report upon the work carried out during the year has been prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Health. As the scheme of treatment of Venereal Diseases has now been in operation for seven years, a summary of the work for each of the years is given in the following table :—

	1924.		Totals, 1924.	Totals, 1923.	Totals, 1922.	Totals, 1921.	Totals, 1920.	Totals, 1919.	Totals, 1918.	Totals, 1917.
	Males. Females									
1. Number of patients under treatment 1st January, 1924	150	32	182	280	227	315	181	35	16	—
2. New out-patients	449	66	515	493	486	499	519	333	141	37
3. Total attendances of out-patients	5,549	1,641	7,190	6,440	7,404	8,180	6,839	3,092	1,574	326
4. Aggregate number of in-patient days ..	30	32	62	140	117	38	273	520	219	37
5. Specimens examined for Wassermann reaction	175		175	172	143	91	77	136	95	19

During the week commencing February 18th, 1924, a film and lecture campaign on the subject of Venereal Diseases was held. The meetings were conducted by Mr. T. B. Partington, of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and were well attended. The following handbill will indicate the nature of the work carried out, and the following attendances were recorded at the consecutive meetings :—(1) 300, (2) 300, (3) 260, (4) 220, (5) 260, hundreds turned away, (6) 150, (7) 2,000, and (8) 2,800.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL.

THE DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

Return visit of **T. Bowen Partington, Esq., F.I.L.**, and a series of
FREE FILM SHOWINGS

OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST MORALITY FILMS :

"Whatsoever a Man Soweth," "Venereal Diseases," "The Public Health Twins at Work," "The Shadow," "Damaged Goods," "The Flaw," "Memories," &c., to which all Men and Women and those over 16 are invited.

MONDAY, Feb. 18, 8 p.m., Baptist Tabernacle Schools, Springfield Road. Chairman: E. HOLT, Esq., Sec. Blackpool Free Church Council.

TUESDAY, Feb. 19, 8 p.m., Baptist Tabernacle Schools, Springfield Road. Chairman: Rev. H. J. KNIGHT.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central Public Library, Queen Street. Chairman: Rev. A. W. R. LITTLE, M.A., Vicar of Blackpool.

THURSDAY, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central Public Library, Queen Street. Chairman: Mr. Councillor F. H. RICE.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central Public Library, Queen Street. For WOMEN ONLY. Chairman: Mrs. REES JONES. Speaker: Miss M. M. TIPPER, N.C.C.V.D.

SATURDAY, Feb. 23, 8 p.m., Lecture Hall, Central Public Library, Queen Street. Chairman: A. P. ANDERSON, Esq., B.Sc., Head Master, Blackpool High School.

FINAL FILM DEMONSTRATIONS.

SUNDAY, Feb. 24, 3 p.m. For MEN ONLY. Special Film for Men. Palace Variety Theatre (admission only from Promenade entrance). Chairman: Mr. Councillor W. S. ASHTON.

" " 8 p.m., **For MEN and WOMEN. Palace Variety Theatre** (admission only from Promenade entrance). Chairman: Ald. S. HILL, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of Blackpool Health Committee).

The Meetings are held in co-operation with the Blackpool Town Council Health Department, the films are authorised by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases and approved by the Ministry of Health. When Mr. T. Bowen Partington last conducted similar meetings in Blackpool hundreds were turned away nightly.

Come Early.

For Adults Only.

ADMISSION FREE.

Collection.

SCHOOL CLOSURE, 1924.

SCHOOL.	CAUSE.	CLOSED.	
		From.	To.
South Shore, Junior Dept.	Measles	9th Dec.	After Christmas Vacation.
Waterloo, Infants' Dept.	do.	16th Dec.	do.
St. Cuthbert's, „	do.	do.	do.
Palatine, „	do.	do.	do.
Revoe, „	do.	do.	do.

School Exclusions.—The following are the lines upon which we work with regard to the exclusion of infected children from school :—

SCARLET FEVER.

- 1.—PATIENTS : (a) Hospital Cases. Two weeks after discharge.
- (b) Home Cases. Two weeks after disinfection.
- 2.—CONTACTS : (a) Hospital Cases. One week after removal to Hospital.
- (b) Home Cases. One week after disinfection.

DIPHTHERIA.

- 1.—PATIENTS : (a) Hospital Cases. Three weeks after discharge.
- (b) Home Cases. Three weeks after disinfection.
- 2.—CONTACTS : (a) Hospital Cases. Two weeks after removal to Hospital.
- (b) Home Cases. Two weeks after disinfection.

ENTERIC FEVER AND ERYSIPELAS.

CONTACTS need not be excluded from School.

MEASLES.

1.—PATIENTS : Three weeks from appearance of rash.

2.—CONTACTS : (a) Infant Scholars. Three weeks from onset of last case.

(b) Other Scholars :—

I.—If had Measles. Not to be excluded.

II.—If not had Measles. Three weeks after onset of last case.

WHOOPING COUGH.

PATIENTS : Six weeks, or as long as cough continues.

CONTACTS : Infant Scholars. Same period as patient.

MUMPS.

PATIENTS : One week after subsidence of swelling.

CONTACTS : Not to be excluded.

CHICKEN POX.

PATIENTS : Three weeks, or until all scabs have disappeared.

CONTACTS : (a) Infant Scholars. Same period as patient.

(b) Other Scholars. Not to be excluded.

The above periods are liable to alteration in individual cases on instructions from the Medical Officer of Health.

Bacteriological Laboratory.—The following specimens were examined at the Public Health Office :—

Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	...	527
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	402
Smears, etc., for Gonococci	...	...	...	41
Smears, etc., for Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	38
Spinal Fluid for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	4
Spinal Fluid for Pneumococci	...	...	...	1
Spinal Fluid for Meningococci	...	...	...	2
Urine for Albumen	...	...	...	8
Urine for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	1024

I estimate that £300 has been saved to the Corporation by the examinations being carried out at the office instead of being sent to other Laboratories.

The Sanatorium.—The number of cases of various diseases treated at the Sanatorium during the year will be seen in the following table :—

				Remaining in at end of 1923.	Admitted during 1924.	Discharged during 1924.	Died during 1924.	Average stay of non-fatal cases.	Average stay of fatal cases.	Remaining in at end of 1924.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	M. F.	4 1	38 54	34 49	1 —	38 37	3 —	7 6
Diphtheria	...	...	M. F.	— 2	21 27	16 26	4 —	39 31	4 —	1 3
Enteric Fever	...	...	M. F.	— —	1 4	1 3	— 1	40 44	— 9	— —
Measles	...	...	M. F.	— —	87 78	74 69	1 1	14 13	17 11	12 8
Puerperal Fever		...	F.	2	8	8	2	34	17	—
Erysipelas	...	...	M. F.	— —	1 2	1 1	— 1	17 15	— 8	— —
Phthisis	...	...	M. F.	4 7	22 20	16 14	5 8	112 82	67 112	5 5
Other Diseases	...	...	M. F.	5 1	48 45	44 39	8 4	22 19	11 4	1 3
Totals	...	...		26	456	395	36	—	—	51

The total number of cases compares with previous years as follows :—

1924 — 456	1917 — 544	
1923 — 389	1916 — 596	1910 — 303
1922 — 461	1915 — 663	1909 — 477
1921 — 365	1914 — 297	1908 — 402
1920 — 532	1913 — 263	1907 — 312
1919 — 411	1912 — 217	1906 — 306
1918 — 537	1911 — 213	1905 — 270

By keeping a daily record of all the inmates of the Hospital (patients and staff), I have been able to calculate accurately the cost of the maintenance per head per week. This includes feeding only (groceries, green-groceries, milk, fish, bread and meat), and works out at an average for the year of 7s. 9d. per head per week.

DISINFECTING DEPARTMENT.

Articles Removed from 485 Houses to Sanatorium for Disinfection :—

Sheets, quilts, blankets, &c.	2,414
Articles of clothing	1,988
Pillows and bolsters	1,896
Beds	485
Mattresses	439
Carpets	271
Rugs and mats	59
Curtains	237
Cushions	98
Table cloths	33
Books	172
Miscellaneous articles	709
Articles from Sanatorium	1361
Total	10,162

Infectious Diseases—

Inquiries into cases of infectious disease (see Visits and Inspections)	—
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases ...	265
Houses disinfected after cases of consumption	67
Other premises disinfected	126
Isolation notices served upon householders... ..	2,639
Isolation notices served upon School Managers	1,269
Isolation notices served upon School Attendance Officers .	1,269
Other notices to School Managers with regard to infectious diseases	1,047
Other notices to householders with regard to infectious diseases	1,047
Other notices to School Attendance Officers	1,047
Notices to Free Library with regard to infectious diseases .	1,310

Poor Law Relief.—I am obliged to the relieving officers for the following information :—

A SUMMARY OF PERSONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED OUT-RELIEF
IN BLACKPOOL DURING THE YEAR 1924.

Males : 27 temporarily disabled and 16 not able-bodied	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Females : 42 in health (widows, etc.) with children and 77 not able-bodied	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Children under 16 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	398

Use of Voluntary Hospitals, &c.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL, 1924.			
	Medical	Surgical	Total.
In patients ...	292	1,178	1,470
Out ...	241	1,583	1,824
Totals ...	533	2,761	3,294

FOXTON DISPENSARY, 1924.					
	Surgical.		Medical.		Total
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Out patients...	51	94	262	408	815

District Nurses.—Two district nurses are employed by the Health Department of the Corporation and their whole time is occupied in district nursing amongst the sick poor of the town. As far as possible they

act under the instructions of the medical practitioners in attendance upon the cases, but in many instances, such as those of chronic bed-ridden cases, doctors are not in attendance, under which circumstances the nurses have to receive their instructions from me or to act according to their own judgment. Their services have been much utilised, and in carrying out their valuable work the large total of 5,401 visits were paid by them.

Ladies' Sick Poor Association.—About 1,449 cases were visited and relieved by the ladies of this Association during the year. Some of the cases were assisted for a few months, others are kept for years, some even as long as 14 and 15 years. The help takes the form of meat, eggs, groceries, clothes, boots, loan of bath chairs, etc., £686 15s. 10d. being expended for this purpose during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The work of this department is classified as follows :—(a) visitation to notified births and expectant mothers, (b) The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, (c) provision of midwives and doctors in necessitous cases, (d) Domiciliary Nursing of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, (e) supervision of midwives, and (f) the establishment of a Maternity Home.

Notification of Births Acts.—During 1924, 1,195 births were registered under the Registration Acts within the specified period of six weeks. Of these 1,178, or 98.5 per cent., were notified to me under the Notification of Births Act. The remaining 1.5 per cent. were not notified because of ignorance of the requirements of the Act.

The following table shews the particulars of the births :—

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED AND NOTIFIED.

	Registered under the Registration of Births Acts.	Registered Births Notified to the Medical Officer of Health under Notification of Births Act.	Still Births Notified.
Doctor in attendance at Birth	346	164	12
Doctor and Midwife .	347	73	7
Midwife	493	747	32
Other Persons	4	194	—
No Information	5	—	—
Totals	1,195	1,178	51

Advice has been given on the storage of food and on the feeding and clothing of infants, and a special point has been made of urging upon mothers the importance of persevering with the breast milk even if it has to be supplemented with cow's milk, suitably prepared. Suitable pamphlets and booklets embodying this advice have also been left at most of the houses.

Midwives Act, 1902.—

Total on Register, 31st December, 1923	28
No. who sent in Form VIII. of intention to practice during 1924	28
No. of new Midwives admitted to Roll during 1924	3
No. of Midwives who left the district during 1924...	4
Change of address reported to Central Midwives' Board	5
Notifications received from Midwives :—	
Sending for Medical help	106
Still-Births	39
Death of Child	2
Visits paid by the Medical Officer of Health or Health Visitors	139

Of the 28 midwives on the roll on the 1st January, 1924, 7 are certified because they were in practice for one year prior to the passing of the Act ; 1 has the L.O.S. certificate ; 2 have the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, certificate ; and 18 the C.M.B. certificate.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic has been in operation on Monday and Thursday afternoons throughout the year, and Dr. Bartlett has been in medical attendance. Medical and nursing advice has been given to mothers and expectant mothers, and Glaxo has been supplied in suitable cases. The statistical tables on page 38 will reveal a very large amount of work which has been done, and it will be noted that the amount of milk supplied free is considerably in excess of that for previous years. As far as the resources of the Health Department are concerned, the infants are not allowed to suffer from the existing unemployment and other factors contributing to the present social conditions. The total attendances at the Clinic during the year of 7,102, is very gratifying and has caused a considerable amount of work on the part of the Health Visitors. The improved accommodation has, on several occasions, been taxed to its limits.

I am pleased to report that an additional Health Visitor has now been appointed whose main duties are in connection with pre-natal work, and a special Clinic is held on Wednesday afternoons for expectant mothers. In addition, the new Health Visitor visits children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. I earnestly hope that this new branch of the Department's work will result in a diminished mortality associated with child-birth, and a lower death-rate of children in pre-school age.

The Maternity Home.—In February, 1924, it was found that the accommodation at the Maternity Home was such that it was not possible to continue its use, and wards at the Sanatorium were cleared and used for Maternity purposes. This arrangement has received the temporary sanction of the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped that proposals for permanent arrangements will soon be submitted. The Home itself is now used as quarters for the Maternity Nurses, and the existing arrangements are found convenient and workable.

Since Maternity work has been commenced we have been more and more impressed by the value and the need for it, and it must always occupy a prominent part in our Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

During the year 1924, 188 patients were admitted to the Maternity Home or the Maternity Wards. 165 of these were delivered by the Nursing staff, and 17 by the Medical Officers.

Since the Maternity Home first opened in 1920, 802 cases have been dealt with to the end of 1924.

There is no definite allocation of beds for special cases, but those mainly dealt with are (1) those without suitable accommodation at their homes, and (2) those where complications are feared or experienced. There is no differentiation made between legitimate or illegitimate cases. The charges for admission vary from £3 to 5 guineas per week, and there is urgent need for increased accommodation for patients.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—47 cases were notified to me during the year. Wherever possible the actual application of treatment to the eyes is carried out by the Health Visitors, for which purpose visits are paid twice daily. All cases completely recovered.

Maternity and Child Welfare Statistical Report of work carried out.—

(a) Visits by Health Visitors—					1922.	1923.	1924.
Births—First visits					901	1,004	1,184
Subsequent visits					1,479	1,936	3,323
Expectant Mothers—First visits ...					162	159	215
Subsequent visits					69	36	118
Still Births					27	27	48
Deaths					51	52	71
Puerperal Fever					—	9	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum					516	484	329
Midwives					64	31	139
Female Outworkers					10	6	6
Children, other than newly born ...					318	236	542
Total ...					<u>3,597</u>	<u>3,980</u>	<u>5,984</u>

(b) Attendances at Clinic—		1922.	1923.	1924.
Expectant Mothers—	First visits ...	73	56	32
	Subsequent visits	25	10	9
Children—	First visits ...	423	397	418
	Subsequent visits ...	5,958	6,583	6,743
Total ...		<u>6,479</u>	<u>7,046</u>	<u>7,202</u>

(c) Supply of “ Glaxo ” to suitable cases—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
Supplied free ...	1,885 packets	4,364 packets	5,324 packets
At reduced charge	849 „	1,392 „	1,160 „
At nett actual cost	7,625 „	5,205 „	4,018 „
Total ...	<u>10,359</u> „	<u>10,961</u> „	<u>10,502</u> „

(d) Provision of Midwives and Doctors—		1922.	1923.	1924.
Full Midwife's fee granted ...	...	21	18	11
	...	20	23	11
Half Midwife's fee granted ...	...	4	10	6
	...	10	4	15

II.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.—This is under the jurisdiction of the Fylde Water Board. The water is an upland surface water, of a soft and peaty nature. The gathering ground is a good one, and is thoroughly safe-guarded from all risk of animal pollution, and the water is now laid on to every inhabited part of the Borough.

Sewerage.—With the exception of certain outlying portions the whole of the town is sewered. The main portion of the sewage flows by gravitation to the central sewage chamber from which iron and steel outfall pipes, each 3 feet in diameter, carry the sewage out to sea for a distance of 950 yards. The sewage is screened, and is discharged immediately the level of the sea is below the level of the sewage in the storage chambers until $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before the time of low water. Valves fixed in a pen-stock chamber serve to keep all sea water from the sewage chambers and sewers while the outfall is tide-locked. Storm overflow pipes are provided to relieve the sewage chambers during heavy rains with an in-coming tide, and also a pumping chamber for use if required when the sewerage system is full at high tide.

From two portions of the town it is necessary to pump the sewage into the sewage chamber, and a smaller and separate sewage system is in existence at the northern portion, which flows by gravitation to an outfall which carries the sewage seawards to an extent of 600 yards. The outlet is below the level of the water at all states of the tide, and the discharge is continuous.

Closet Accommodation.—With the exception of the outlying portions of the district which are not sewered, the whole of the town is on the sewerage system. It is proposed, in connection with certain road alterations, to extend the sewers, and this will enable the closets to the houses near to Bispham station to be converted into the water carriage system. At present the sewage from these houses empties into cesspools, and these in their turn are emptied and the contents poured down adjacent manholes into the sewers.

There are 31,134 water closets in the town, about 60 cesspools, and about 20 privies.

Scavenging.—This is carried out by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation. As all the inhabited portions of the town are on the water carriage system the collection and disposal of excreta other than by this system is small in quantity. The cesspools and privies, where they exist, are emptied and cleaned at least once a week.

With regard to household refuse, galvanised iron bins with tight-fitting covers are the most satisfactory of all forms of receptacles and these are the forms which are being encouraged by my department. I am informed by the Cleansing Superintendent that during the season a daily collection was carried out at the Hotels, Hydros, Restaurants, and the larger Boarding-houses, whilst from the ordinary Company-houses the refuse is removed from two to three times a week. With a slight modification requisite for meeting the reduced demand in connection with Company-houses, this system is maintained during the winter months. The refuse collected is dealt with at the Destructor, and during the year 33,156 tons were destroyed.

With regard to the **inspection of ash-receptacles** by my department, the following work has been carried out :—

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS MADE	...	...	...	...	2,553
Satisfactory ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	262
Unsatisfactory ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	656
Re-inspections of houses under notice	...	...	...	...	1,635

TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED—	Preliminary.	Statutory.
(A) To abolish modified ashpits...	...	—
(B) To repair modified ashpits ...	63	20
(C) To provide galvanised ashbins	709	97
Total number of modified ashpits repaired	...	40
„ ashpits abolished	...	—
„ galvanised ashbins provided	...	663
„ informations laid	...	303
„ modified ash receptacles abolished	...	24

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—This is under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who has submitted to me the following statistical statement of the work carried out by him and his assistants :—

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	...	...	...	...	...	...	559
VISITS AND INSPECTIONS (TOTAL)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,914
Number of houses fully inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,763
Number of inspections of works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,024
Visits to houses and other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,470
Re-inspections in relation to nuisances under notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,108
Inspections of basements	...	...	...	...	...	...	319
Inspections of manure heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	532
Sands inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Visits and enquiries in relation to infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,587
Enquiries into deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	258
Smoke observations (half-hour duration each)	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Visits to tents, vans, and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	545
Inspections of back passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Offensive trades...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruction Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,998

NOTICES SERVED FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES—

Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Preliminary	...	...	...	...	...	...	686
Verbal	...	...	...	...	...	...	141

HOUSE DRAINS TESTED—Total number of tests made 1,834

NEW HOUSES EXAMINED—

Drains	{	satisfactory	...	...	...	...	1,383
	{	unsatisfactory on first test	...	...	...	...	32
	{	rendered satisfactory after first test	...	...	...	...	18
W.C.'s	{	satisfactory	...	...	...	...	1,504
	{	of defective construction	...	...	...	...	8
Ash receptacles	{	satisfactory	...	...	...	...	760
	{	unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	643
Site of house	{	satisfactory	...	...	...	...	1,404
	{	unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	—

OTHER HOUSES (1st Test)	satisfactory	...	...	...	21
Drains	unsatisfactory	...	...	...	151
House drains re-tested during re-laying	...	...	...	...	135

HOUSES PASSED OFF AS SATISFACTORY AFTER DRAINAGE DEFECTS REPAIRED	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
NUMBER OF HOUSES WHERE SANITARY DEFECTS WERE FOUND								833
NUMBER OF HOUSES WHERE SANITARY DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED								1,085
NUMBER OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED	...	...	...					2,328

DRAINS—

Drains laid, re-laid, disconnected, and ventilated	...	...						68
Drains repaired and cleaned out	...	...	...	...				834
New Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...		5

W.C.'s—

New w.c.'s fixed in lieu of privies, pail closets, and defective w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...			6
Water closets unblocked	...	...	...	...	...			14
Fittings and water provided for w.c.'s				...	...	...		93
W.C. soil pipes repaired and ventilated	...	...	...					14

WASTE PIPES—

Bath, lavatory, slopstone and rainwater pipes disconnected over gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
New slopstone waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	...				10
New rainwater pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...			5
Rainwater pipes and roof gutters repaired	...	...	...					116
Slopstone waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...				50

MISCELLANEOUS—

Houses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...				20
Floors re-laid with flags	...	...	...	...	...			—
Floors re-laid with concrete	...	...	...	...	...			14
Back yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...		68
Back yards flagged or concreted	...	...	...	...				—
Back passages cleansed	...	...	...	...	...			13
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...			104
Animals removed from improper situations					...	...		16
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

MISCELLANEOUS—Contd.

Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Yards cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Watercourses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Overcrowding ceased	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Manure Receptacles Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sundry minor defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	712
Number of manholes, gullies, etc., reported to	Cleansing Superintendent						122
Back streets requiring forming reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Erections in yards, etc., reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	45

The above statement does not comprise a large number of visits paid in respect of portions of the work of the Department which are dealt with in this Report under special headings.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 338 Factories in the Borough, and through the courtesy of the Inspector of Factories I am able to give the following classification :—

Building and Furnishing Trades	...	...	...	...	53
Preparation of Food and Drink	...	...	...	...	136
Manufacture of Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	...	34
Printing and Bookbinding	...	...	...	...	22
Engineering	...	...	...	...	46
Lighting	...	...	...	...	9
Laundries and Cleaning Works	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	25
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>338</u>

There are 614 workshops in the Borough, and their classification is given in Table 4, on page 46.

During the year 16 workshops were discontinued, and 62 new workshops were added to the register. Of the 62 new workshops, 7 were dressmakers, 8 tailors, 2 milliners, and 5 boot repairing.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	38	4	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	420	21	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	363	1	—
TOTAL	821	26	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects					Number of Prosecutions.
	Not Reme- died 1923.	Found.	Remedied 1924.	Not Reme- died 1924.	Referred to H.M. Insp'r.	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—						
Want of cleanliness	4	73	70	7	—	—
Want of ventilation	2	1	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective drains	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	5	24	25	4	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	—	3	3	—	—	—
Accom- { unsuitable or defective ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
modation { not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT :—						
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to out-work, which are included in Part 3 of this Report) ...	—	18	18	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	121	121	11	—	—

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.					
	Lists received from Employers.					
	Twice in the year			Once in the year.		
	Lists	Outworkers		Lists	Outworkers	
		Con- trac- tors.	Work men		Con- trac- tors.	Work men
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel :—						
Making, &c.	21	30	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total.....	21	30	—	—	—	—

Inspections of Outworkers' premises	...	...	9
Addresses of Outworkers received from other authorities			2
do. forwarded to other authorities			3

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshop on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.				Number.
Important class of workshops, such as workshop bake- houses, may be enumer- ated here.	Making of wearing apparel	...	...	227
	Workshop bakehouses	...	...	213
	Preparation of other foods	...	...	8
	Building trades .....	...	...	39
	Furniture making, etc.	...	...	32
	Conveyances	...	...	10
	Other Trades	...	...	80
	Laundry Workshops	...	...	5
Total number of workshops on Register .				614

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts, (S.133)	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) }	—
Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.	—
Other	7
Underground bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
In use at the end of the year	3

It will be observed from the preceding tables that 821 visits were paid by the Inspectors during the year, and the sanitary conditions have been kept under close supervision. This total includes 363 visits to workplaces, but not the visits to slaughter-houses. 121 defects were detected, 11 were still requiring attention at the commencement of the year, and of these 121 were remedied, leaving 11 still requiring attention at the commencement of 1925. Circular letters were sent out at the beginning of February and August, asking for lists of outworkers. The premises of the outworkers were visited twice during the year, and were found in a satisfactory condition.

Offensive Trades.—The following exist in the Borough :—

Blood Drier at Public Slaughter-House	...	...	1
Tripe Boilers	„	„	2
Gut Scraper	„	„	1
Hide, Skin, and Fat Depots	„	„	2
Rag and Bone Depots	...	...	3
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	97

It is satisfactory to note that all the offensive trades, with the exception of Rag and Bone, and Fried Fish businesses, are at the Abattoirs, where the effluvia emitted by them is not observed by any large body of people. They are also under daily observation by the Superintendent of the Abattoirs and the Meat Inspector.

It will be observed that I am able to give the number of Fried Fish Shops in the town. This business is now an "offensive trade," and no new business may be established without the consent of the Sanitary Authority, under an Order, which came into operation on the 13th March, 1914. The number of fish friers premises on the register during 1924 was 97.

Common Lodging-Houses.—Under the Blackpool Improvement Act, 1901, sec. 47, the common lodging-houses, previously existing were re-registered. These houses, with their accommodation, are as follows :—

Eden Street : 160 adults and 1 child.

Seed Street : 56 adults and 1 child.

562 visits of inspection were paid, and it was found on the whole that the lodging-houses were kept in a cleanly condition, and managed satisfactorily.

Sands Inspections.—I have again to report a very satisfactory condition of the foreshore, and the improvement referred to in my previous reports has been well maintained. The screening apparatus at the north and south outfalls are in full working order, and have proved highly satisfactory in so far as the effects in cleansing the sands has been observed by Inspectors of my department. 46 inspections were made.

Basement Dwellings.—These, as regards numbers and unsuitability for habitation as separate tenements, are much as in former years. Many of the middle and back basements are inadequately lighted and ventilated, and when alternative accommodation is available for the occupants, legal powers will have to be sought prohibiting their use as separate tenements.

Schools.—I do not hold the position of School Medical Officer, and a special report dealing with this part of the work of the Corporation is issued by the Education Committee.

The Sanitation of the schools is under my supervision. The premises are satisfactory and no structural alterations of a sanitary nature were carried out during the year. The questions of school closures, school exclusions for Infectious Diseases, and the disinfection of school premises, are dealt with in other portions of this report.

PROSECUTIONS IN 1924.

MONTHS.	ACT.	DETAILS OF OFFENCE.	RESULT.
July ...	Milk and Cream Regulations	Cream contained 0.15 per cent. Boric Acid. Not labelled.	Fined £5 and £3 19s. 0d. Costs.
July ...	Sale of Food and Drug Acts.	Milk deficient of 17 per cent of its Fat.	Fined £1 and £1 4s. 9d. Costs.
July ...	Milk and Cream Regulation.	Cream contained 0.25 per cent. Boric Acid. Not labelled.	Fined £5 and £3 19s. 0d. Costs.
May ...	Section 67, Blackpool Improvement Act, 1893, and Section 93, Building Bye-Laws.	Conversion of premises.	Fined 20s. in each case.
May ...	Do.	Do.	Withdrawn.
May ...	Do.	Do.	Fined 40s. in each case.
September .	Milk and Cream Regulations.	Cream contained 0.2 per cent. Boric Acid. Not labelled.	Fined £5 and £7 5s. 0d. Costs.
November...	Section 67, Blackpool Improvement Act, 1893, and Section 93, Building Bye-Laws.	Conversion of premises.	Withdrawn subject to certain conditions of Medical Officer of Health being complied with.

FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The production and distribution of milk is entirely in private hands. I look forward to the time when the Municipality will organise and take under its own direction the milk supply. The milk supplied to the town has, on the whole, been good in quality, but there is still room for improvement in the cleanliness of the article.

The following is a list of the milksellers in the Borough :—

Milkshops selling by retail	...	...	...	...	68
Provision dealers selling by retail	...	...	...	...	87
Butchers selling by retail	...	...	...	...	4
Persons meeting farmers' carts and delivering milk direct, not taking it home	...	...	...	...	46
Tea rooms and sweet shops selling in glasses as refreshments when asked for	...	...	...	...	17
Dining rooms selling milk in glasses when asked for	...	...	...	...
Selling sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	1
No. of cowsheds in the Borough during 1924, the occupiers of which sold milk during the year...	...	...	...	...	45
Ice cream dealers	...	...	...	...	290

The number of Farmers outside the Borough bringing milk into the Borough was, until recently, 163, but now many of them are sending their milk in by Carriers and Wholesale Dealers, and have ceased to retail it themselves. At present there are 146 sending milk in by Carriers and Retailers.

During 1924, as seen on page 53, 84 visits were paid to cowsheds within the Borough, 420 to milkshops and dairies, 443 to ice cream stalls and work-places, and 30 to restaurant kitchens.

59 milk dealers, and 86 ice cream dealers, applied for registration during the year.

26 samples of milk which was brought from outside the Borough for sale or consumption within the Borough were submitted for bacteriological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, 23 of which were found

by microscopical and inoculation tests to be free, whilst the remaining three contained Tubercle Bacilli. The animals from which this milk was obtained were destroyed.

Twenty-four samples of Ice Cream were examined, twelve of which were unsatisfactory.

With regard to milk produced within the Borough, Messrs. Hutchinson & Walker, our Veterinary Surgeons, have continued, as in past years, to examine all the cows within the Borough at least once each quarter. The following is a statement submitted by them upon the subject :—

“ The average number of Cattle inspected each quarter was 1,136, with an average of 810 milk cows.

“ Fourteen cases of Tuberculosis have been detected amongst the Milk cows which have been disposed of, eleven suffering from Generalized Tuberculosis, two with Tubercular Udders, and one suffering from Tuberculosis of the Brain.

“ Two cases of Chronic Mammitis have been disposed of.

“ Five cases of Actinomycosis of the Tongue have been successfully treated.

“ The cattle generally speaking are in a very good condition.”

Other Foods —The following is a list of shops in the Borough where food is exposed for sale :—

Where Butchers' Meat is sold	...	...	...	200
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	17
Fish Shops	...	...	...	47
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	348
Confectioners' Shops...	...	...	...	168
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	90
Fruit Shops	...	...	...	98
Tripe Shops	...	...	...	15
Oyster Stalls	...	...	...	12
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	97
				<hr/> 1,092

Slaughter-Houses.—There exist in the Borough the Corporation Abattoirs and one private slaughter-house.

The following animals were slaughtered at the Abattoirs :—

				1922.	1923.	1924.
Cows	...	...	...	214	249	190
Heifers	...	...	...	2,975	3,761	3,679
Bullocks	...	...	...	2,032	1,632	1,924
Bulls	...	...	...	103	51	54
Calves	...	...	...	1,662	1,729	1,639
Sheep	...	...	...	62,382	58,497	56,603
Pigs	...	...	...	1,494	1,223	1,137
				<hr/> 70,862	<hr/> 67,142	<hr/> 65,226

The following visits in connection with the general Food Supply were paid during the year :—

					1924.
Milkshops and dairies	...	...	...	...	420
Cowsheds in the Borough	...	...	...	...	84
Cowsheds out of the Borough	...	...	...	...	2
Ice cream stalls	...	...	...	...	183
Ice cream workshops	...	...	...	...	260
Public slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	115
Other slaughter-houses in the Borough	...	...	...	...	23
Other slaughter-houses out of the Borough	...	...	...	...	89
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	4,154
Other shops	...	...	...	...	865
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	30
					<hr/> 6,225

In all cases where vendors of food have any doubt as to the quality of any article they are invited to send to the Health Office, when the Medical Officer of Health or Food Inspector will at once call and pass an opinion on the article. This arrangement continues to be largely taken advantage of.

It is very desirable that the Corporation should have powers to require the registration of all premises where human food is prepared, stored, or sold. The necessity also of clearing houses for meat brought in from outside districts has already been commented upon.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—Mr. Sanderson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Sampling Officer under these Acts. During the year 252 samples were taken, of which it will be observed, twelve were “informal.”

Informal Samples Number.		Nature of Sample.	Formal Samples Number.	
Taken.	Not Genuine		Taken.	Not Genuine.
1	1	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	—	—
—	—	Butter	29	3
—	—	Cheese	13	1
1	—	Chlorodyne	—	—
1	—	Cocoa	4	—
—	—	Coffee	21	—
—	—	Cream	10	4
1	—	Glycerine..	—	—
—	—	Honey	1	—
—	—	Jam, Damson	1	1
—	—	Jam, Raspberry	3	—
—	—	Jam, Strawberry	2	—
—	—	Lard	23	—
1	—	Mace, Ground	—	—
1	—	Margarine	—	—
—	—	Meat, Potted	1	1
—	—	Milk	95	5
—	—	Milk, Condensed.	7	—
—	—	Milk, Condensed Full Cream	1	—
—	—	Milk, Full Cream Powder	1	—
—	—	Mustard	1	—
—	—	Pepper, White	15	—
1	—	Pepper, Cayenne	—	—
—	—	Rice	5	—
1	—	Sal Volatile	—	—
—	—	Shrimps (Potted)	1	1
—	—	Sugar	1	—
1	—	Sugar, Demerara	—	—
1	—	Sulphur, Milk of.	—	—
1	—	Sweet Spirits of Nitre	—	—
1	—	Tartaric Acid	—	—
—	—	Tea	3	—
—	—	Vinegar	2	—
12	1		240	16

REMARKS.

Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine.—This sample, an informal one, was deficient of 8 per cent. of its Quinine Sulphate. The Vendor of this sample was instructed to dispose of the whole of his remaining stock of this commodity, and he complied therewith.

Butter.—One of the three samples found to be not genuine contained 1.5 per cent. excess of water, whilst the others two contained Boric Acid to the extent of 7 and 8 grains respectively. Warning letters were sent to the Vendors.

Cheese.—This sample consisted of Fat, 28.5 per cent.; Water, 38.7 per cent.; Casein, 28.1 per cent.; Mineral Matter, 4.7 per cent.; and was certified to be deficient of 5 per cent. of its fat. A warning letter was sent to the Vendor.

Cream.—One sample contained 0.2 per cent. Boric Acid and was not labelled in accordance with the Regulations. Owing to the fact that the Vendor's wife had inadvertently omitted to label the Cream, and being satisfied that there was not any intention wilfully to commit a breach of the Regulations, legal proceedings were not instituted, but the Vendor was warned as to the necessity of complying, in future, with the Regulations. The remainder of the samples contained Boric Acid to the extent of 0.15, 0.25 and 0.2 per cent. respectively, and were not labelled in accordance with the Regulations. Legal proceedings were instituted in each case, and the Vendors were each fined £5 and costs.

Jam.—This sample of Jam was certified to have been artificially coloured with an Analine Dye. In view of the fact that a Departmental Committee was at the time considering the question of colouring matter and preservatives, etc., in foodstuffs, no action was taken beyond the sending of a warning letter to the Vendor, who thereupon withdrew from sale the Jams of this manufacture.

Meat (Potted).—This sample contained Boric Acid to the extent of 15 grains per pound. No action was taken.

Milk.—Three of the samples returned as non-genuine were in respect of slight deficiency of cream. In the fourth case the deficiency, however, amounted to 17 per cent. Legal proceedings were instituted and the defendant was fined £1 and costs. In the fifth case the Analyst reported that the sample contained Milk 95 per cent. and added water to the extent of 5 per cent. Legal proceedings were instituted and the defendant was fined £2 and costs, and was also fined 6s. for not being Registered as a Purveyor of Milk.

Shrimps (Potted).—This sample contained Boric Acid to the extent of 42 grains per pound. The case was reported to the Health Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1924, under the Public Health
(Milk and Cream) Regulations 1912, Amendment Order, 1917.**

	Number of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative.	Number in which Preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each sample.
Milk	95	Nil.
Cream	10	Complied with Regu- lations 10
Instances in which Samples have been submitted for Analysis to ascertain if the Statements on the label as to preservatives were correct :—		
I. Correct Statements made ...		6
II. Incorrect Statements ...		4
Percentage of Preservative found in each sample		Complied with Regulations.
Percentage stated on Statutory Label		Complied with Regulations.
Determination made of Milk Fat in Cream sold as Preserved Cream :—		
I. Above 35 per cent.		10
II. Below 35 per cent.		Nil.
Instances where (apart from Analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of Preserved Cream in Article V. (1), and the Proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed		4
Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been com- plied with, and action taken ...		4 Samples not labelled. In one instance the Vendor was warned, in the re- mainder Legal Proceed- ings were instituted and Vendors were fined £5 and costs in each case.
Thickening substances. Any evi- dence of their addition to Cream or Preserved Cream. Action taken where found		Nil.

HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Borough Treasurer for supplying me with the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses during the Spring enumeration, and for the sake of comparison I give the corresponding figures for the years since 1903.

The figures for 1924 were obtained by an enumeration held during March, 1925.

NUMBER OF HOUSES.

	Empty.	Inhabited.	Total.
1903	309	11,181	11,490
1904	272	11,494	11,766
1905	188	11,789	11,977
1906	191	12,053	12,224
1907	153	12,334	12,487
1908	171	12,607	12,778
1909	200	12,994	13,194
1910	207	13,361	13,568
1911	298	13,714	14,012
1912	282	14,209	14,491
1913	121	14,784	14,905
1914	130	15,096	15,226
1915	105	15,682	15,787
1916	77	15,963	16,040
1917	27	16,016	16,043
1918	34	16,877	16,911
1919	144	16,848	16,992
1920	403	17,085	17,488
1921	375	17,708	18,083
1922	270	18,392	18,662
1923	619	19,288	19,907
1924	784	20,844	21,628

The need for houses for the working classes is as acute as ever, and the provision of houses under the Municipal Scheme has only partly met the situation. The shortage of houses has necessitated overcrowding and other undesirable conditions of living which are not conducive to the public health or welfare.

The following are the requisite statistics upon the Housing question.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	77,410
(2) General death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.72
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.92
(4) Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	71.1

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts, and including the inspection of 1415 new houses prior to occupation).	...	...	...	...	...	1,587
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.	...	...	...	...	...	348
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	203

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	941
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	52
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	62
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil.

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	151
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	144
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit... ..	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b) Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of area	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2) Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	...					Nil.
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced.						

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	Nil.
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INSPECTION OF NEW HOUSES.—The procedure adopted with regard to new houses remains as in previous years, viz., the Borough Surveyor notifies me of the completion of the building. The houses are then examined by my department, and reports thereon made and sent to the Borough Surveyor. 1415 new houses were examined during the year, and in all of them the sites were concreted. In 32 cases the drains were unsatisfactory on the first test, and it was necessary that some alteration should be made to them. In 8 cases the closets were of unsatisfactory construction. In the tabulated statement on page 41, it states that 643 new houses were without ash receptacles, but this is due to the fact that in these cases the landlords had delayed providing them until the tenants actually came into occupation.

Meteorology



The Blackpool observatory is 70 feet above mean sea level, and its geographical position is Lat. $53^{\circ} 49' N.$, and Long. $3^{\circ} 3' W.$

The pre-war publication of observations is now resumed, and daily telegrams are issued, which secure insertion in the press.

The equipment of the observatory is, as in former years, and the list of instruments is given in earlier reports.

SUNSHINE.—Bright sunshine amounted to 1,308.8 hours, or 229.1 hours below the average for the years 1904-1923. The daily mean value was 3.58 hours, as compared with 3.65 in 1923. Sunshine was recorded on 289 days, and the sunniest days were May 17th and June 13th, with 12.8 hours and July 14th, with 13.0 hours. The brightest months were May and July, with 175.4 and 159.5 hours respectively.

RAIN.—The rainfall for the year was 38.86, or 5.03 above the average for the years 1904-1923. Rain fell on 213 days, and the months with the heaviest fall were May (5.18), September (5.23), and December (5.31). The heaviest fall of rain in one day was 1.48, on the 31st May.

GALES.—Fourteen gales occurred during the year, viz. on January 8th, February 5th and 13th, April 27th, July 7th and 24th, August 17th and 18th, September 14th, 16th, 17th and 21st. In gusts the highest wind velocity was 85 miles per hour, on the 21st September.

SNOW fell on seven days, viz., January 10th and 17th, February 29th, March 1st, 4th and 5th, and April 10th. **HAIL** fell on seven days. **THUNDERSTORMS** occurred on nine occasions, viz., February 29th, April 26th, May 31st, June 11th, 17th, 19th and 26th, and December 23rd.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.—The highest observed reading was 1,036.6 m.b., on the 19th November, and the lowest was 978.7 m.b., on the 27th December. The greatest monthly range of pressure occurred in December (55.1 m.b.), and the smallest in May (29.7 m.b.).

TEMPERATURE.—The mean shade temperature for the year was 49.2. The highest temperature recorded in the shade was 81°F. on the 12th of July, and the lowest was 24°F. on the 3rd March. The highest temperature recorded by the black bulb solar radiation thermometer was 131°F. on the 11th August, and the lowest temperature recorded on the grass was 14°F. on March 3rd and 18th.

MIST occurred on January 2nd, March 24th, and December 10th and 11th.

FOG occurred on November 6th.

HUMIDITY.—The mean relative humidity throughout the year was 84.7 % of saturation. The lowest record was 77.5% for the month of March, and the highest was 92.9% for the month of January.

UNDERGROUND TEMPERATURE.—The highest temperature recorded at a depth of one foot was 64.0°F., on the 16th of July, and the lowest was 36.4°F., on the 11th January and 7th March. At a depth of four feet the highest record was 56.8°F., on July 20th, and the lowest was 41.2°F., on March 4th.

WIND.—From daily observation made at 9 a.m., the following direction was recorded :—N. 13, N.E. 20, E. 45, S.E. 80, S. 36, S.W. 75, W. 61, N.W. 33, Calm 3.



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